

WHOOING COUGH ALERT!

- ▶ Whooping cough (also called pertussis) is an extremely contagious infection of the respiratory tract caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*.
- ▶ **Sporadic outbreaks of pertussis have been reported.**
- ▶ Although generally a mild/moderate disease in adults, pertussis can be fatal in the very young.
- ▶ **You were vaccinated** as a child, but your immunity may have decreased over time. An adult booster vaccination is available.
- ▶ **You may be ill with pertussis if you have had coughing lasting more than 2 weeks with any of the following:**
 - » Heavy bouts of coughing (coughing attacks)
 - » A high-pitched “whoop” sound at the end of the coughing attack as you gasp for air
 - » Vomiting after a heavy bout of coughing

TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

- ▶ Seek medical treatment immediately if you think you are ill with pertussis or if you have had close contact with someone with pertussis; especially if you are around infants or pregnant women.
- ▶ If your medical provider suspects that you have pertussis, or you may have been exposed to someone with pertussis you may be given antibiotics to prevent the spread of infection. Let your healthcare provider know if you will be in close contact with infants or pregnant women.
- ▶ People are most contagious for the first 3 weeks after they begin to cough; cough into your upper sleeve rather than your hands.
- ▶ **Take all antibiotics and other medications as prescribed by your healthcare provider.**